

Flow Shorthand

created by members of the renowned
FastWriting community

inspired by systems invented
by Malone, Russell and Gregg
based on sound occurrence



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under the

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Principles of “Flow”

1. Shorthand is written according to *sound*.
2. Some vowels are so obscure or neutral that they are omitted when they do not contribute to speed or legibility. Any vowel which does not contribute to the legibility of an outline may be omitted if its omission gives a more facile outline.

Joinings

3. The terms «left motion» and «right motion» refer to the rotation in movement, and not to the direction.

Circles Joined to Single Strokes

4. At the beginning or end of a single curve, the circle is placed *inside* the curve.

ail		ray		law		or	
on		ohm		analogue		Oman	

5. At the beginning or end of a single straight stroke, the circle is written with *left* motion.

as		other		say		though	
hat		what		pa		bow	

Circles Between Strokes

6. Where an angle, or a point, is formed at the junction of consonants, the circle goes outside the angle.

rare		latch		loss		soap	
name		watch		son		moth	

7. Where a curve is joined without an angle by a following line, the circle is placed inside the beginning curve.

nose		mass		sail/sale		solve	
ran		mole		dock		gate	

8. Where a straight line is joined without an angle by a following line, the circle is written with *left* motion

thereon		ban		gap		cop	
SOS		Bob		papa		ha-ha	





Some Consonant Combinations

r-n, n-r / l-m, m-l / l-n, n-l / m-r, r-m

9. *rn/nr* and *lm/ml*. *r* and *n* are equal curves and are made a little flatter than usual when joined.

rent  in our  melt  lemma 




10. *ln/nl* and *mr/rm* combinations: Where curves of unequal length join without an angle, a distinction is made between them by a distinct 'shoulder' or 'hump'.

Lena  nil  Mr  remember 

Blended Consonants





chs, s-ch

11. By blending *ch* and *s* into one very long stroke the syllables *such*, *sedg*, *sciou*, *geou*, *jis*, *jus* are expressed.

such  justice  conscious  gorgeous 





pb

12. By blending *p* and *b* into one long stroke the syllables *peb*, *pub*, *bep*, *bup*, *pip*, *pep*, *pip*

pub  republic  pepper  pebble 


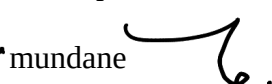





td, dt

13. By blending *t* and *d* into one long stroke the syllables *ted*, *det*, *tet*, *ded*, *tid*, *dit* are expressed.

sorted/sordid  custody  exerted  deserted 





mn, nm

14. By blending *m* and *n* into one long stroke the syllables *men*, *min*, *mon*, as well as 'in the m-' are expressed.

lemon  mundane  demon  minister 
in the meantime  in the morning  in the matter 

rl

15. By blending *r* and *l* into one long stroke the syllables *rel*, *ril*, *rl* are expressed.

release  acrylic  pearl  barrel 

Phrasing Principles

16. Short and common words only should be joined.

of the *ρ* to the *Ϛ* in the *γ* by the *Ϛ*

17. The words should make good sense if standing alone.

it will be *Ϛ* I will be *Ϛ* it will not be *Ϛ* to be *Ϛ*

18. Pronouns generally are joined to the words they precede.

I can *ρ* you are *Ϛ* you can *ρ* he will be *Ϛ*

19. A qualifying word is usually joined to the word it qualifies.

good man *Ϛ* big man *Ϛ* little boy *Ϛ*

20. The words *to*, *of*, *in*, *with*, and *and* generally are joined to the word following.

to the *Ϛ* and will *Ϛ* of which *Ϛ* to be *Ϛ*

21. Words that do not make an easily written, distinctive joining should not be phrased.

Blending Downward Characters

nt, nd / mt, md / pnt, pnd

22. Nt / Mt. N or M dictates the length. d converts to t.

nt, nd	<i>γ γ</i>	→	<i>Ϛ</i>	mt, md	<i>γ γ</i>	→	<i>Ϛ</i>
print	<i>h</i>		<i>Ϛ</i>	bond	<i>Ϛ</i>		<i>Ϛ</i>
parents	<i>h</i>		<i>h</i>	blind	<i>Ϛ</i>		<i>Ϛ</i>
	<i>h</i>		<i>h</i>		<i>Ϛ</i>		<i>Ϛ</i>

23. Pnt and Pnd. Blend p into tn.

pending	<i>Ϛ</i>	spend, spent	<i>Ϛ</i>	append	<i>Ϛ</i>	expenditure	<i>Ϛ</i>
---------	----------	--------------	----------	--------	----------	-------------	----------

tn, dn / tm, dm

24. Tn and Dn. In writing tn and tm, start to the left.

ten	<i>Ϛ</i>	cotton	<i>Ϛ</i>	wooden	<i>Ϛ</i>	abandon	<i>Ϛ</i>
-----	----------	--------	----------	--------	----------	---------	----------

25. Dn and Dm. In writing Dn and Dm, start down.

temper	<i>Ϛ</i>	bottom	<i>Ϛ</i>	dimple	<i>Ϛ</i>	kingdom	<i>Ϛ</i>
--------	----------	--------	----------	--------	----------	---------	----------

26. The blend is not employed when a strongly accented vowel or diphthong occurs in the syllable.

dean dine team tame
dome dime

EXCEPTION: The syllable *tain* is expressed by *ten*.

maintain attain

27. Where it is possible to use either *ten-den*, or *ent-end*, as in *intention*, *ten-den* is given preference.

intention indent indentation

kn, km

28. Kn and Km. In writing the combinations kn and km, the angle is rounded to give fluency.

come kin token chemist

29. EXCEPTION. When the preceding motion makes it more facile and desirable to write, an angle is put in.

broken reckon blackmail locomotive

Brief Forms

30. Brief forms are specially written and do not always follow the rules of writing.

Plurals

31. Plurals of brief forms. The plurals of brief forms ending in s are formed by adding -es

causes businesses invoices offices

32. In other brief forms the plurals are formed by adding s to the singular forms.

parts changes ships forms

Past tense

33. After brief forms and other abbreviated words a disjoined t placed close to the preceding character is used to express the past tense.

changed timed liked willed

34. In all other cases join t or d if a distinctive and facile joining is possible; otherwise, disjoin t to express the past tense.

passed risked glared feared

Usage

35. A brief form is frequently used as a prefix or as part of another word.

almost income formal anyone

Joinings

The E/U-Hook Principle

36. Words beginning with e/u-hook: To avoid an unnecessary angle, the slant of the hook is modified according to each letter it is glued to.

immediate initial You may You know
 every easier if you economy

37. An e/u-hook can be attached to the previous letter, the next letter is attached in an angle, but the hook can also be attached angled, and the previous rule is applied.

theme peace committee defeat
 to us customer qualities disgusted

38. When the letter after the hook is in perfect alignment do not put the angle in.

keys request biggest give us
 kill guilty inquisitive acquisition

Prefixes and Suffixes

co-

39. The prefixes *con*, *com*, *coun*, *cog* followed by a consonant, are expressed by k.

confess compel county cognate

40. In words beginning with comm, or conn, the second m or n is written into the outline





common connote commence connect

41. When *con* or *com* is followed by a vowel, or by *r* or *l*, write *kn* for *con* and *km* for *com*.

comedy  comrade  comic  community 

-ly

42. The suffix *ly* is expressed by a small hook; *ily* and *ally*, by two hooks, a small wave.


early  heartily  socially  officially 

43. After a u-hook vowel, *ly* is written on the opposite side from the vowel.

truly  duly 









Circle/loop ending: plurals

44. To express the plural of brief forms ending in a circle, and some words ending in a loop, a slight change is made in the manner of joining *s*.





days  names  stocks  products 

Phrasing Principles




45. All infinitive verb forms use a simple *t*.

to see  to work  to ask  to fly 
to marry  to grow  to be  to help 

46. When repeated in a phrase, as is expressed by *s*

as well as  as great as  as much as  as good as 

47. After *be* or *been*, the word *able* is expressed by *a*.

have been able  would be able  will be able 

Vowel combinations

Expressing Y and long U

48. *Ye*, *yie* has the sound of long *e* and is followed by *e*-hook forming a tiny wave.

yet  year  yearn  yield 








49. *Ya*, *ia* is expressed by an *e*-hook and small *a*-circle.

yard  yarn  sepia  piano 

50. Yo, io is expressed by an e-hook and large o-circle.

yoke/yolk  yacht  yodel  yawn 









51. Yu or long u is expressed by a small loop or u-hook.

youth  refuse  purely  union 
 you  young  bayou 





Prefixes and Suffixes

en-, in- , un-, em-, im-









52. The vowel is omitted in the prefixes *en*, *in*, *un*, *em*, *im* when the prefix is followed by a consonant.

infer  envy  impel  embrace 
 indeed  unseen  engine  emphasis 







53. When a vowel follows the prefix (given above) the initial vowel is retained.

innate  emotion  emit  immoral 

54. EXCEPTION. The initial vowel is not retained in any case where the word is a brief form or a compound prefix.

unusual  unused  organized  unobjectionable 
 arranged  unaccountable  unimportant  unbelievable 

55. The negative forms of words beginning with *n* or *m* are distinguished from the positive forms by inserting the initial vowel in the negative forms.

noticed  unnoticed  known  unknown 
 necessary  unnecessary 

ex-

56. Ex is expressed by es.

examine  excess  expense  exit 
 exercise  excellent  exchange 

-ing

57. The suffix *ing* is expressed by a disjoined dot, plural *ings* by disjoined s.

meeting savings slayings dealings

58. The suffix *ingly* is expressed by a disjoined e-hook.

seemingly lovingly exceedingly daringly

Diphthongs

59. A diphthong is the union in one syllable of two simple vowel sounds uttered in rapid succession. The diphthongs are therefore expressed by joining the circles and hooks representing the vowel sounds of which the diphthongs are composed.

I, ay	as in die		ow	as in now	
oi, oe	as in oil, poem		oa	as in goat	
ya, ea	as in yarn, create		u, yu	as in fume	
yo, eo	as in yoga, neo		oui	as in Louis	

Omission of Minor Vowels

60. Often two vowels not forming a “pure diphthong (u, i, ow, oi)” come together, the minor vowel may be omitted. Though after n, m, v and f the slope is more convenient.

theory	genius	new	ratio
music	due	behold	reduce
genuine	senior	violin	avenue

Omission of Short e/u and ow

61. Short e and u hooks are generally omitted, unless two consonants are joined without an angle, then the hook can be used to indicate the point of connection.

up rub other mother

62. Between two horizontal straight strokes ow is indicated by a jog. Omit ow after l and r. Write house with u instead of ow. In all other cases write the diphthong fully.

how	however	anyhow	allow
clown	crown	brown	house

-sume

63. The u is omitted in the termination *sume*.

assume resume consume presume

Some Prefixes and Suffixes

per-, pro-, pur-

64. The syllables *per*, *pro*, *pur* are expressed by *pr*.

proper pursue permit profit
probable propose promise pronoun

-able, -ple

65. The syllable *able* is expressed by *b* in many words.

valuable suitable noble available

66. In some brief forms, the derivatives are difficult to write without disjoining.

likeable useable moveable

67. The syllables *ple* is expressed by *p* in the following words only.

simple ample sample example

-ment

68. The syllable *ment* is expressed by *m* in many words.

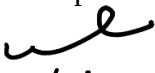
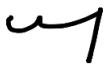






moment element compliment payment

69. EXCEPTION. In those words which *m* would not be clear as *ment* write out *ment*, putting on the final *t*.

cement raiment foment comment

Join prefixes





70. Two or more simple prefixes may be joined. (See exception rule 47. Initial vowel not required in compound prefixes.)

inform  unimportant  conform  immoral 
 uncomfortable  unforesee  unemployed  unknown 

Blended Consonants





ns, ms













71. The combination *ns* and *ms* is expressed by giving *n* or *m* a swinging upward turn at the finish. This is done at the word end only.

intense  audience  gleams, glimpse  measurements 

t-s, d-s / s-k, s-g

72. By rounding off the angle, the following useful signs for syllables are obtained.

ts, ds  blended:  and expresses tis (it is), tes, tus, dis, des, dous
 sk, sg  blended:  expresses sek, seq, succ, seg, sig, cyc









disposition  test  desperate  discontinue 
 tusk/disk  secondary  sequential  consequence 
 segments  cyclic  success  escape 

Frequent Word Beginnings





be-, de-, re-, dis- and mis-

73. The vowel is omitted in the syllables *be*, *de*, *re*, *dis* and *mis*.

(In Accordance with the rule to omit short e/u or non essential vowels in general)

bereave  depend  disadvantage  misery 
 beneath  recycle  depress  reasonable 

74. The vowel is retained when *be* precedes *b*, *p*, *th*, *t*, *d*.

believable  between  better than  would be done 

Additional Phrasing Principles

... had

75. The word had when following a pronoun is expressed with h

I had he had we had they had
 you had she had who had?

... was not, wasn't

76. The negation in verbal phrases such as was-not and is-not is expressed with n
 (To indicate contractions, use apostrophe above these forms.)

was not he was not it's not it was not
 there was not there is not he wasn't who is not

Blends in Phrases

77. The blending principle makes possible the following phrases and many more.

to me to know it may be in due time
 to my to make at any what to do
 to meet at once at any time to draw
 to mean it must be in due course into the

78. When *do-not* is preceded by a pronoun, it is expressed by *den*.

I do not we do not you do not I do not believe
 they do not know we do not believe









79. When necessary, *don't* may be distinguished from *do not* by writing *don* for *don't*.

I don't you don't we don't they don't

Omitting R

80. In many words containing *ar*, *or*, *er*, *ir* the *r* (or *er*, *ir*) is omitted, leaving only circle vowels to carry the sound.

endorse large firm learn
 surprise serve circle turn

corn		warm		corner		north	
worth		sort		toward		war	





In applying this principle advantage is simply taken of dropping a sound that ordinarily is not stressed in speaking.

Blends after omitting R



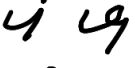





81. The syllables *tern*, *dern* are expressed by *ten*.

lantern		modern		western		eastern	
---------	---	--------	---	---------	--	---------	---

82. The termination *worthy* is expressed by *thi*, and *worth* by *woth*.

unworthy		trustworthy		worth		worthless	
----------	---	-------------	---	-------	--	-----------	---

83. The syllables *ther* is conveniently expressed by the sign for *th*.

mother		brother		neither		weather	
bother		leather		father		bather	








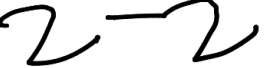
Prefixes and Suffixes

for-, fore-, fur-

84. The prefixes *for*, *fore*, *fur* are expressed by *f* at the beginning of words.

forget		forgive		furniture		foresee	
--------	---	---------	---	-----------	--	---------	---

the suffixes *ful* and *ify* are expressed by a tiny version of *f* at the end of words.





awful		beautiful		wonderful		merciful	
modify		dutiful		certify		helpful	

85. When *for* or *fore* is followed by a vowel, disjoin *f* close to the next character.

forearm		forever		foreordain		forewoman	
---------	---	---------	---	------------	--	-----------	---

-self, -selves

86. The suffix *self* is expressed by *s* at the end of words.





yourself		himself		herself		myself	
----------	---	---------	---	---------	--	--------	---

The suffix selves is expressed by ses at the end of words.

themselves  yourselves  ourselves 





-age

87. The suffix *age* is expressed by *ch* at the end and within words.

courage  storage  baggage  manager 

-ture



88. The syllable *ture* is written *tr* at the end of words

nature  mature  literatur  creature 


Omission of Final t

89. When slightly enunciated, *t* is omitted at the end of many words.









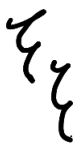









T omitted after *s*

best  contest  artist  cost 

T omitted after *k, p, den*









act  adapt  president  student 

90. *T* is written in all of the following words.
(Learn these and omit from all others.)




lost  vast  missed  worst 
cast  least  mixed  distant 
extent  fast  dust  post 
intent  patent  east  taste 
coast  content 

Omission of D

















91. When slightly enunciated, *d* is often omitted.

mind  remind  command  diamond 
dividend  extend  expound  demand 




The *d* is written in the following words.
(Learn these and omit from all others.)

commend  contend  attend 

D is omitted when it immediately precedes *m* or *v*.






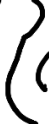
admit  advocacy  adverse  admire 
 admittance  admirable  adversary  advance 
 admission  advent  admonish  advise 
 advocate  adventure  adverb  advice 

In the words *admire*, *advice*, *advise*, *advance*, coming under this rule, the initial vowel also is omitted to facilitate phrasing.

we admire  we advise  in advance 

Past tense after omitted -t/-d





92. When the last letter of a primitive form is omitted, the past tense is indicated by a disjoined *t*.

contested  insisted  extended 
 requested  demanded  compounded 

Prefixes and Suffixes





ul-

93. The syllable *ul* is expressed by the *u-hook*.

ulster  ultimate  multitude  multiple 

al-

94. The syllable *al* (pronounced aw-l) is expressed by the *o-circle*.





alternate  almost  always  almanac 

sub-

95. The syllable *sub* is expressed by a joined *s*.




submit  substance  subside  subway 

96. When sub is followed by a circle vowel, s is disjoined and placed on the line close to the following character.

subarea  subaltern  subordinate  subobjective 

-less









97. The syllable *less* is expressed by *l*.

thoughtless  homeless  needless 

The Abbreviating Principle

The abbreviating principle is not employed when advantage may be taken of analogical or definite word-building rules, and it should not be employed when easily written word forms are possible without it. A good rule to apply to any word is:
When in doubt, write it out.









In a small group of words the form stops with a diphthong or a strongly accented vowel.

arrive  derive  cure  excuse 
provide  decide  repeat  operate 





98. If there is a longhand abbreviation it is generally used, if it furnishes a distinctive outline.

amount  balance  memorandum  dinosaur 

99. Write through the accented syllable if the outline is distinctive.





authentic  capable  develop  illustrate 
imagination  language  prejudice  original 

100. Write through the consonant following the accented syllable, if writing through the accented syllable does not give a sufficiently distinctive form. To illustrate, writing *ab* for *absent* would not be sufficiently distinctive, but by writing *abs*, the word is immediately suggested. In context, *can* would not suggest *cancel* or *canvas*, but *cans* and *canv* would furnish perfectly legible forms.

absent  absolute  attitude  local 

... -tion, -ssion






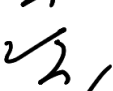







101. The vowel is omitted in the termination *tition, tation, dition, dation, nition, nation, mission, mation*.

petition  station  definition  commission 

Analogical Word Beginnings







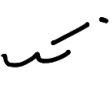





-ct, -cted, -ctor, -cter, -ctive

102. In forming the derivatives of words ending in *ct*, as in *contract* it is not necessary to disjoin to express *ed, or, er, or ive*. The *t* is omitted in the primitive form, and also in its derivatives.





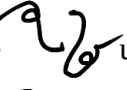
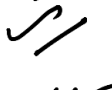









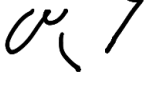

contract  contractor  constructor  constructive 
 instructed  instructor  extracted  detracted 
 detected  detective  restrictive  active 
 affected 

Disjoined *in, un, dis, re, non*

103. Some very useful forms are obtained by joining simple syllable characters, such as *in, un, dis, re, non*, to the signs for disjoined word beginnings.

uncontrolled  unrestrained  concentration  indestructible 
 reconstruction  inextricable  uninteresting  redistribute 
 eccentric  uninstructed  disinterested  misinterpreted 

Additional forms:

self-interest  self-control  disinclination  self-aggressive 
 reantagonize  unselfish  self-contradiction  self-antagonize 
 reinclined  unparalleled  suspicious  unsusceptible 
 regressive  self-centred  unsuspecting  disinclined 
 untransacted  unrestricted 